

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The claims have also been amended to delete improper multiple dependencies.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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1422-0493P

Attachment: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) A recombinant DNA comprising the gene of [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1.

5. (Amended) An expression vector for a microorganism, an animal cell or a plant cell, comprising the gene of [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 or the recombinant DNA of claim 4.

9. (Amended) A polypeptide possessing a ceramidase activity, encoded by the gene of [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1.

11. (Amended) An antisense DNA which is complementary to the gene of [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 or a part thereof.

12. (Amended) An Antisense RNA which is complementary to the gene of [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 or a part thereof.

14. (Amended) An oligonucleotide probe or primer, capable of specifically hybridizing to the gene of [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, or a complementary stand thereof.

15. (Amended) An antibody or a fragment thereof, capable of specifically binding to the polypeptide of [any one of claims 8 to 10] claim 8.

20. (Amended) A method of controlling an amount of ceramide in a cell and/or in a tissue, characterized by introducing the gene of [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 or an antisense nucleic acid thereof into the cell and/or the tissue, thereby controlling the amount of ceramide in the cell and/or in the tissue.

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